Money/Texas group expects to ask for financial backing

From B1

The Rev. L.K. Jones, a member of Concerned Texans, said his group "most certainly" will ask Colorado for Family Values for financial help, although he didn't know how much will be needed. Concerned Texans is preparing a challenge to an Austin ordinance that extends medical and sick-leave benefits to domestic partners of city employees, whether homosexual or heterosexual.

The law, which was adopted by the City Council in September, takes effect Jan. 1. But Concerned Texans has collected between 3,000 and 4,000 of the 15,000 signatures it needs to bring the measure to a repeal vote. If submitted in January as planned, the petitions would assure a vote in May.

Colorado for Family Values' support of the Austin effort comes on the heels of its backing of a city charter measure promoted by Cincinnati's Citizens for Community Values.

In campaign spending reports released last week, Citizens for Community Values said the Colorado Springs-based group supplied $390,100 of the $491,773.51 it spent during the campaign. Residents voted by a margin of 62 percent to 38 percent on Nov. 2 to amend the city charter to prohibit enforcement of any laws based on sexual orientation. A city ordinance had prohibited discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, disability, marital status, Appalachian origin or sexual orientation.

Perkins defended the expenditure; gay rights activists were angered by it.

"It's pretty obscene that that much money would come into our community from outside, to a group that claimed to be local," said Barry Grossheim, co-chairman of the gay rights group Stonewall Cincinnati.

A federal judge has blocked the charter amendment from taking effect until questions about its constitutionality can be fully argued in U.S. District Court.

Meanwhile, two new Cincinnati City Council members want to get rid of the 1992 human rights law that contains the provision to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Incidentally, the consideration was not ignored by other council members, as was stated by the GT, until the item was publicly discussed. Those who attended the budget-balancing session, including the GT, heard me say that my attempt to include pay for the council was symbolic of those pork items others had appeared to be "slipping into" the proposed 1994 budget. Evidently, my symbolism was effective. I have since been told that accusations I made suggesting the city's proposed 1994 budget had included slush funds "hurt the morale" of those responsible for the budget and city employees in general.

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— **William F. Guman**
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Colorado Springs

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— **Mic Robertson**
Colorado Springs

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o refuse to publish any letter.

GT 12/8/93

UPDATE

Group to target more gay rights issues

Springs organization pours $400,000 into Cincinnati

By **Pam Zubeck**/Gazette Telegraph

After contributing nearly $400,000 to a battle over gay rights in Cincinnati, Colorado for Family Values appears willing to pump cash into similar efforts elsewhere.

Among those places is Austin, Texas, where a fight over gay rights is brewing.

"We have been in contact for some time with people in Texas," said Will Perkins, founder of Colorado for Family Values, which waged a successful campaign on behalf of Amendment 2.

"We are acting as a resource and will continue to do that for anyone who is addressing this issue and who requests our involvement," he said Tuesday.

Perkins said no money has been donated to the Austin effort yet, although Colorado for Family Values director Kevin Tebedo has visited the city to speak.

But Perkins said the group is prepared to spend money received from donors outside Colorado on Amendment 2-style campaigns in other states and cities. Amendment 2, which is on hold pending a court's ruling on its legality, would prohibit laws protecting gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

"We feel that because we receive funds from out of state from people concerned on this issue, it's up to us to expend them on that issue wherever it is," Perkins said, declining to say how much Colorado for Family Values has collected.

See **MONEY**/B3

Brad Wilkinson
General Manager

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